

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05277 241323Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 SCCT-01 /084 W

----- 048658

R 241215Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7194

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, IR

SUBJECT: GOI RELUCTANT TO OPEN PLO OFFICE IN IRAN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 5024, (B) USINFO 231240Z MAY

FONMIN KHALATBARY TOLD AMBASSADOR MAY 24 THAT DURING FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE GO-AHEAD FOR PLO TO SEND PEOPLE TO TEHRAN TO DISCUSS OPENING OF PLO OFFICE HERE. NOTHING HAS COME OF THIS INITIATIVE YET BECAUSE PLO WAS TO MAKE NEXT MOVE AND THUS FAR HAS DONE NOTHING. SINCE POLICE RECENTLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE THEY THINK LINKS GEORGE HABBASH'S GROUP TO IRANIAN TERRORISTS (REFTEL B), KHALATBARY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN BEFORE TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION. ALTHOUGH GOI RECOGNIZES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HABBASH'S EXTREMISTS AND MORE RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF PLO, GENERAL PUBLIC THINKS OF THEM ALL MERELY AS PALESTINIANS. KHALATBARY TOLD AMBASSADOR PROUDLY THAT IN HIS ISTANBUL AND LATER TEHRAN STATEMENTS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF OPENING PLO OFFICE IN TEHRAN HE HAD BEEN "EVASIVE" AND HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY GOI COMMITMENT. THEREFORE, IT WILL NOT BE SO DIFFICULT

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TO BACK OFF NOW, IF NECESSARY.

HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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